GOVERNMENT OF INDIA
AYURVEDA,YOGA & NATUROPATHY,UNANI,SIDDHA AND HOMEOPATHY (AYUSH)
LOK SABHA

UNSTARRED QUESTION NO:1145
ANSWERED ON:04.12.2015
Promotion of Herbal and Medicinal Plants
Sampath Shri Anirudhan

Will the Minister of AYURVEDA,YOGA & NATUROPATHY,UNANI,SIDDHA AND HOMEOPATHY (AYUSH) be pleased to state:

Will the Minister of AYURVEDA, YOGA NATUROPATHY, UNANI, SIDDHA AND HOMOEOPATHY (AYUSH) be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Government has taken note of exploitation by foreigners who are visiting India in the name of research study and importing medicinal plants at a huge cost in the name of foreign origin;

(b) if so, the details thereof along with the corrective measures taken by the Government thereon;

(c) whether several constraints like inadequate investments in research and 360 development, lack of quality and standardisation norms and lack of adequate marketing and trade information has led to the low share of India"s presence in the global trade of medicinal plants; and

(d) if so, the initiatives taken by the Government for the promotion of herbal and medicinal plants?

Answer

THE MINISTER OF STATE (IC) OF THE MINISTRY OF AYURVEDA,
YOGA & NATUROPATHY, UNANI, SIDDHA AND HOMOEOPATHY
(SHRI SHRIPAD YESSO NAIK)
(a) & (b): The Biological Diversity Act, 2002 and Rules, 2004 makes the provision to check the exploitation by the foreigners of the biological resources occurring in India which also includes medicinal plants. As per Section-3 of the Biological Diversity Act, 2002 any foreign individual or entity has to obtain prior approval of the National Biodiversity Authority for undertaking any research on the Indian biological resources and / or associated knowledge. There are also quarantine measures to check on any biological material imported by foreigners which also covers medicinal plants.
(c) & (d): The Government of India has set up the National Medicinal Plants Board (NMPB) in November, 2000 to coordinate matters related to development of medicinal plants sector in the country. The NMPB has been implementing different Schemes / Programmes for overall development of the medicinal plants sector in the country.

-2-

The NMPB since its inception in 2000 has been supporting Research & Development projects on various aspect of medicinal plants like Survey-cum-documentation of medicinal plants and associated traditional knowledge on medicinal plants; standardization of Good Agricultural and Collection Practices (GACPs); development of Agro-techniques, development of phytochemical reference standards, monographs; laying down standards of quality, safety and efficacy, and quality assurance.
The other departments / organizations of Government of India viz. Botanical Survey of India (BSI), Indian Council of Forestry Research & Education (ICFRE), Department of Science & Technology (DST), Council for Scientific and Industrial Research (CSIR), Indian Council for Agricultural Research (ICAR) also supports Research and Development activities on various aspects of Medicinal Plants. However, the reason for low share of India's presence in global trade of medicinal plants is due to huge domestic / national consumption of medicinal plants.
In year 2008 NMPB has also conducted a study on assessment of demand & supply of medicinal plants. Recently, in year 2014 the NMPB has also assigned a similar study to Indian Council of Forestry Research and Education (ICFRE), Dehradun, to conduct a detailed study-cum-survey to assess the demand and supply of medicinal plants in India in the national perspective, as well as in respect of the international Market.
In addition, to promote the global trade of Medicinal plants, the NMPB is also supporting cultivation of medicinal plants under "Centrally Sponsored Scheme of National AYUSH Mission (NAM)".